Pol 23-9 Libya

148649

SECRET
Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 12 JUL 1982

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
INFO: USDEL MC PRIORITY
STATE

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SUBJ :Military Coup in Libya

You may draw upon following in discussion within NATO of current Libyan developments:

1. A military coup took place in Libya in the early morning hours of September 1. It was apparently well organized, met minimal resistance and was able to seize control of the major centers without difficulty. We are still in the dark about the composition of the new regime (which has maintained almost complete anonymity since the coup three days ago) and its ultimate direction.

2. An important and so far missing piece of the puzzle, however, is the intensity of the aging King's resolution to work for a return to power. A royal spokesman issued a statement from Turkey, where the King was vacationing, indicating that he considered the coup as "unimportant" and expected to return to Libya. Subsequently he left Turkey for Greece. On September 2 he dispatched his

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:
AFN/RJAllen:RPM:LJReddy:aag	9/3/69	20710	RPM - Ralph J. McGuire

CLEARANCES:
~~XXX/XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ DIA-Mr. Nielsen
INR/RAF - Mr. Jackson
RPM - Mr. Floyd
AR/N - Mr. Suddarth

SECRET
Classification

FORM DS-322
4-68

Department of State

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

personal advisor, Omar Shalhi, on a mission to London. At last report he plans to rejoin the King in Greece.

3. It is still too early to speak firmly of the new regime's political coloration, but its vocabulary is in many respects similar to that of various radical nationalist juntas in the Middle East. The new government, however, stated almost at the outset that it would abide by all international agreements; it has so far made no threatening gestures toward Wheelus Air Base, and has recently moved to normalize petroleum exports and production.

4. The new regime has been recognized by six Arab radicals, the UAR, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, and South Yemen, and also by East Germany. Tunisia, which fears being caught between a radical Libya and a radical Algeria, has evolved an interesting approach to the problem of diplomatic relations. The GOT asserts that "recent events are of a domestic nature and do not affect diplomatic relations between the two countries."

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

FORM DS-322
4-68

Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

5. The Revolutionary Command Council itself issued a statement on September 2 that it considered the states which continue to maintain their diplomatic representation in Libya have automatically recognized the new regime.

GP-4

END

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

Classification

FORM DS-322
4-68